

**REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 1, 2014**

The Wethersfield Town Council held a meeting on Monday, December 1, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield.

Present: Councilors Hemmann, Hurley, Kotkin, Martino, Rell, Roberts, Deputy Mayor Barry, and Chairperson Montinieri. Absent: Councilor Manousos.

Also present: Mike Turner, Town Engineer, Brook Berry, Library Director, Amy Northrop Wittorff, Executive Director, Wethersfield Historical Society, Keith Rafaniello, Director of Technology, Jeff Bridges, Town Manager, Dolores Sassano, Town Clerk.

Councilor Hurley led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Mayor Montinieri asked if there was anyone wishing to speak on the public hearing item.

RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT NEW TOWNS INTO THE CAPITOL REGION COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (CRCOG) METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)

With no one wishing to speak on the item, Mayor Montinieri declared the hearing closed.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Gus Colantonio, 16 Morrison Ave. commented that he appreciated the question raised by Councilor Rell regarding the union contracts and the conflict of interest from the union, and the money that they contribute to the election. He thinks it was a good one. He also asked who represents the taxpayers during the union contracts and questioned if it is unanimously ratified by the unions. Was it really good for the unions or was it good for the residents of Wethersfield? He suggested appointing 5 or 6 business leaders in Wethersfield and let them deal with the unions and see what happens. Also commented the taxes have been going up.

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Rd. commented that conflict of interest also caught his ear. He commented on the new fire truck, \$790,000 plus interest, and no referendum. He asked if we really need it. Now the town wants to borrow \$500,000 to fix up the Solomon Welles House. It is a horrendous amount of money and the return we are going to get on it is so small yet you go ahead, because it's a grant. He has spoken about grants in the past and stated that someday someone is going to have to pay these bills. That is not the way to run business. There was an article in the Hartford Courant stating Connecticut is in a fiscal crisis. Why are we putting money into a tennis court rather than in a school where the windows have been leaking for years.

Amy Wittorff, 17 Center St., Executive Director of the Wethersfield Historical Society commented on some of the things that they have been doing this year. She spoke about the

Wethersfield Historical Society's objectives and accomplishments over the past year. She explained that by the end of this calendar year the Society will have presented almost 70 public programs or special events, many of them offered free of charge and will have served over 1800 school children by the end of the year. She stated that over 1200 of those students are from Wethersfield Public Schools who visit free of charge thanks to our grant from the Robert Allen Keeney Memorial Fund. She stated that to date, we have served over 19,200 physical visitors at our five historic sites since January 1st and another 42,000 people have used the resources on our website. Ms. Wittorff commented that none of these services would be possible without the support of our members both their financial support and their gifts of their time and their talent. She stated that they hope to welcome many more residents this holiday season to the Keeney Center to view their new exhibit Castle on the Cove, The Connecticut State prison in Wethersfield which was mounted with the assistance with Wethersfield residents who loaned objects for the exhibit and shared their memories, photos, and stories of the prison with the society staff. Ms. Wittorff made several announcements of activities that the Historical Society will be holding during the holiday season. She thanked Mayor Montinieri and Councilor Roberts, their Town Council Liaison, for all of their support during the year and stated that the Wethersfield Historical Society is proud to be partners in preservation and place making with the Town of Wethersfield and look forward to providing many more enjoyable events and learning opportunities for our community in 2015.

Martin Malicki, 79 Southwell Rd., commented that he hopes the Town Council will vote to spend the money for the replacement of the gym floor at Emerson Williams. He stated that the Councilors will continue to receive phone calls and emails from Emerson Williams' parents regarding this important project. He hopes the Council will provide the money to the Board of Education to replace the gym floor.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor Kotkin commented that the Insurance Committee met about going out for an RFP for a health care claims audit which we have never done before. It was outlined by our Agent of Record to an Insurance Committee meeting a couple of weeks ago and I think the Chairman of the Insurance Committee and the Agent of Record are going to come in and explain what it would involve and why we would be interested in doing that. Councilor Kotkin commented that also for insurance, and this is not the greatest transfer for our budget for next year, but unlike past years when we were consistently under running our expense budget, this year the four months through October, three months came in above budget, one below budget. So if that trend holds, we could be looking at some significant increase perhaps 10-12 percent in health care expenses for the 2015-16 fiscal year. One of the reasons why we have been able to keep the tax rate down recently is because the healthcare experience has been fantastic in town. We hope that this trend that we have seen in the last four months turns, but if it doesn't, we will have to prepare ourselves for probably allocating quite a bit more.

Councilor Kotkin reported that the Budget and Finance Committee met and we continue dialogue with retirees who have asked for a number of items, one of which is a sort of a COLA for their

pension even though when they retired, unlike other than for police officers, there was no guarantee for any sort of increase after they retired and we haven't had an increase in monthly payments to our pensioners since 1998. Councilor Kotkin explained that they have come in and have also asked for an increase and retroactively back 15 or 20 years. He stated that the Budget Committee met and indicated that retroactive payments were not going to happen but could consider an increase as part of the budget review in the spring of 2015. They also expressed interest in having a member retiree on the Pension Committee and the Town Manager spoke to them about meeting to have a formal organization with a formal nominating process before we could even consider that.

Councilor Kotkin reported that they also discussed the bonding and that obviously interest rates remain quite low which is to our advantage and thinks the plan is that they would go to market with our bonds on Wednesday of this week and asked Mr. Bridges if that was still the plan. Mr. Bridges responded yes at 11:00, the sale closes. Councilor Kotkin commented that the rates were down again today so we should get to the market.

Councilor Roberts reported that Shared Services is meeting tomorrow night and they have been working on merging specifically the IT Departments between the Town and Board of Education and last week the Superintendent and Keith Rafaniello and the Chairman of the Board of Education, Gina DeAngelo along with herself, Mike O'Neil and Jeff Bridges went to Enfield and spent quite a bit of time with the Town Manager and the Board of Education staff and stated that they have successfully merged their IT Departments. She stated that it was a very extensive process and everyone was very happy with it and they got some questions answered and some good specifics that they will be working on and their aim is to get this done by July 1st.

Councilor Roberts reported that the Youth Advisory Board met on November 5th and they have some new members on it and it has become a very active board and at their last meeting, it was almost standing room only in Conference Room 1. Councilor Roberts stated that this year one of the projects that is being implemented in the town for a trial run is the six grade program called the Friday Night Hangout and it is an event that has been happening at the Community Center where students pay a minimal amount and they can come for 3 hours, watch movies, play games, play in the Keene Center whatever, just hang out and it has been very, very successful. Rachael Sunny has been sponsoring it and working on it from the town and it's very successful. They have also been working on composition of the board. It is a huge board, 18 people, trying to get it down to a lower number which is more manageable and having people actually show up and that's been very successful. They will be meeting again on the 11th but both the Youth Advisory Board and Shared Services are very active.

Councilor Martino reported that last week there was a meeting of the Economic Development Finance Subcommittee. The purpose was to review the comments back from the Town Attorney on the new Façade Loan Program. He stated that they went through it and just had a couple of questions for him and expect to have the answers and be ready to submit the final draft to Council hopefully at the next meeting.

Councilor Martino reported that last week, in Jeff Bridges' absence, he attended the Connecticut Association of Street and Highway Officials CASHOS 43rd Annual Awards Banquet on November 22nd to accept the 2014 Distinguished Service Award to the Town of Wethersfield. Mike Turner and Sally Katz were also at the dinner. He stated that we accepted the award on behalf of the men and women of Wethersfield's Public Works Departments and Divisions. He explained that the town participated in various CASHO events and educational seminars over 20 years and we have staff who serve on CASHOS Board of Directors for over 10 years and we actively support and attend educational and legislative programs supported by CASHO alliances with OSHA, UCONN, T-Square and CIRMA. Councilor Martino then read the plaque to the public and presented it to the Mayor and the Town Manager. Mayor Montinieri and Mr. Bridges thanked Councilor Martino.

Deputy Mayor Barry reported that the Building Committee met last Monday night and the turnover of the new wings, the gym, media center and band facilities are still on schedule for December and that there are a couple of items on the agenda for later in the meeting.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Hurley congratulated the Wethersfield High School Football Team. They went undefeated beating Newington on Friday. It was cold and muddy and sloppy but they did it. Their first playoff game will be in New Canaan at 2 p.m. on Saturday if anyone wants to take the drive down there. He also congratulated the Wethersfield High School Girls Swim Team as they came in second in the State.

Councilor Hurley commented that they all did receive a lot of emails on Emerson Williams and stated that he is sure that they will be taking a look at that and that it would be nice to fit that into the budget and he hopes that is one of the top priorities for the Board of Education for the Capital Improvement and put it through the Capital Improvement process.

Mayor Montinieri commented that he did speak with the Superintendent this afternoon about the flurry of emails about that matter and asked him to take it into consideration since it primarily would start with the Committee at the Board of Education level to make that a priority coming up through CIP which he and Tony Martino talked a little bit about this weekend. Mayor Montinieri stated that he asked the Superintendent to take a hard look at it and advised him that we were getting quite a bit of response from the public and he agreed it was certainly a top concern and urged him to look into it as quickly as he could so it could come to CIP so we'll be following it up. Mayor Montinieri agreed it's something that as a Council we will certainly ultimately have the authority to budget but it will go through that process first with the Board then to CIP for approval which Tony who is our liaison.

Mayor Montinieri also wanted to thank the Town Manager for coordinating a meeting a little over a week ago. Many of you read about the pending arrival of D&D Market in the former Bliss which has been vacant about nine months. Jeff, our town Manager, was kind enough to coordinate a meeting at the request of several of us to get all of the moving parts, if you will, to

make that process go smooth so that they can get that opened quickly. The intent of the D'Aprile family is to have it open prior to Christmas for the holiday season. So we had the Health Department, the Building Inspector, Planning and Zoning, Economic Development and, of course, Jeff and some representation from D&D at one meeting, got all the paperwork sort of in one sitting process so it can be fast tracked which our intent with that obviously, and Jeff was very helpful in making that happen, is to convey a message to a potential business in this case D&D and D'Aprile's is that we want to be as business-friendly in a timely fashion and that so far has been working out very well. The Health Department inspectors were out there and the D'Aprile family is moving quickly to get that building 100% where it needs to be if not beyond the requirements. So, I appreciate Jeff's effort on that.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Bridges thanked Mayor Montinieri for the comments on D&D and stated that they are looking forward to getting them open.

Mr. Bridges reported that the bond sale is Wednesday at 11:00 so by noon, we will have results and as soon as we have a result, we will email that out to everybody.

Mr. Bridges reported that the Superintendent has emailed him regarding the Emerson Williams floor and if you want to come out on Wednesday night at 6:00 p.m. they are going to open up that room so you all can take a look. After that, they are going to move some gymnastics equipment in so it will probably cover most of the floor so if you want to come out Wednesday if there is an interest, I'll tell them to go ahead because there are some coming out and we'll go. Mr. Bridges asked if there is an interest. Councilor Hurley responded that there is but not Wednesday. Mayor Montinieri commented that he will take a video and send it to his I-phone. Mr. Bridges stated that the Board of Education last year it was the number 2 priority after the Webb windows and then the Hanmer burner was the third one, the CIAC funded the Hanmer burner. The estimate for last year was \$175,000, but in light of what we are learning in the remediation process at the high school, I think we need to take a hard look at that number and make sure we cover our basis in the estimate. So, we'll work with the Board of Education to make sure that number is good when it get through the system.

Mr. Bridges reported that at the last meeting we had representatives of some property on Highcrest Street express some concern. Mike Turner is here. He is going to answer some of those concerns or at least tell you what we are doing to follow-up on some of those concerns.

Mr. Turner explained that based on the concerns that were raised at the meeting last week, we did have an opportunity to finally review the revised plan that the builder has submitted to us. We prepared a list of recommendations and planned revision requirements and there are nine of them and I have outlined them in this little update memo to you. Mr. Turner stated that he has gone out to the site himself several times including today when I met the builder out there. One of the most significant things that he is doing is adding a sidewalk/retainer wall. It's kind of a combination on the south side of the structure of the house. So in other words, you would step

out of the garage, go down six inches, there's a step down to a sidewalk and then you would go down another foot and a half to where the finished grade would be. So, I think Mr. Miller mentioned it was a 4-foot grade well that's being reduced by at least 2 feet to the property line. So there is a distinct swale that has been constructed and is being maintained during construction. Mr. Turner stated that the silt fence is up and is operational. I actually went out during the heavy rainstorm last week just to observe what is happening, what the situation is and everything is being contained on the site and is being directed east to west away from the neighboring properties. We are waiting for the builder to respond back to these comments with a revised plan and how he is going to address our concerns.

Mayor Montinieri reported that this Monday at 6:30 p.m. there is the Volunteer Fire Dinner which we have all been invited to just a reminder about that.

COUNCIL ACTION

Councilor Martino moved **"TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT NEW TOWNS INTO THE CAPITOL REGION COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (CRCOG) METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO),"** seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

Mr. Bridges explained that at the last legislative session, the Office of Policy and Management was tasked with consolidating the CRCOGs. There are eight or so and they are down to nine and there were several smaller ones that they kind of broken up but the new Capital Region MPO is in this map with the new towns hash marks so they are asking for resolutions from the existing members towards the acceptance of the new members. Mr. Bridges stated that we work with many of these towns already on different things so it is kind of a natural fit for us to take those into the CRCOG.

Councilor Hemmann asked if that will have any impact on our town's ability to continue to use some of the grants. I know that we use the grant for the tree truck through CRCOG. Do we think diluting this will take away from our ability?

Mr. Bridges responded no, it will probably be a wash because we are going to take the money that those MPO's and CRCOG's would have competed for and divided that up amongst the remaining members as well so it's kind of a wash.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilor Martino moved **"TO APPROVE THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD AND LOCAL 818-22 OF COUNCIL 4, AFSCME, AFL-CIO, FOR JULY 1, 2014 TO JUNE 30, 2017"**, seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

Mr. Bridges explained that at the last meeting there was a question posed relative to a conflict of interest. That opinion has been rendered and I think that answers any remaining questions that I have received on the adoption of the contract. So barring any further questions, we recommend approval. We do find the contract to be beneficial. It does require the employees to pay more for OPEB, pay more for pension, pay more for health care. New hires go into the high deductible plan, reduces the number of personal days from 4 to 2. It's very similar to the other contracts in that it's consistent but also similar in the fact that we are trying to lower our long-term costs and this again takes another step down the road with the adoption of the high deductible plan for new hires along with the Health Maintenance Program that the Board of Education is instituting.

Councilor Martino commented that as he stated the last time, when he worked here he was a member of that union and an Officer of it and will be abstaining on it tonight.

Councilor Kotkin asked how many of our different unions are represented by AFSCME. Mr. Bridges responded 3. Councilor Kotkin asked if he could remind us what the status of the other two contracts are at the current time.

Mr. Bridges responded that Physical Services was approved last year. It was very consistent with this contract. Same wage scale, same new hires into the higher deductible plan so it is very consistent with this one and then 1303-408 which is the professional technical union along with the dispatchers, we've reached a tentative agreement with them and you should expect to see that contract at your December 15th meeting and again, that mirrors this in the same wage scales, same new hires into the higher deductible plan so forth and so on.

Councilor Kotkin asked so all three of the contracts are consistent with each other. Mr. Bridges responded, almost identical. Councilor Kotkin commented and they all move us down the path of sharing more of the health care costs with employees, restricting benefits for new hires and so forth. Mr. Bridges added altering benefits for new hires. Councilor Kotkin commented that we all voted in favor of the Physical Services contract was approved unanimously by the council and hopes that this one will be approved unanimously by the council and hopes that they next, I don't think we have seen the final details of it, we have discussed it but have we actually even seen the final? Mr. Bridges responded that we have a draft out for review based upon the Town Attorney to make sure what's in the marked-up version is consistent with the Town Attorney so you should receive it by the end of the week to review, the 408 contract. Councilor Kotkin commented that on a bipartisan basis the councilors have approved pretty much all of the contracts that have been brought before us over the past several years and these definitely move the town forward in trying to contain some of those health care costs that cause so much stress on our budgets 7, 8, 9 years ago, so I'm very hopeful that as a group we are all going to support this and that some of the chaffing that we had during the last meeting can be left behind.

Councilor Hurley commented that the issue last time wasn't whether it was a good or bad contract and it wasn't about being critical about the hard working town employees. It was whether or not it was appropriate for public sector unions to fund municipal campaigns and we just want to kind of get that out there.

Deputy Mayor Barry commented that he does think it is a good contract and thinks that everyone agreed that it was a good contract last week and hopes that moving forward that we wouldn't cavalierly throw out charges of conflict of interest when in the end I think we agreed that there was not a conflict. I think the money we spent at the insistence of some of the folks to my left was not money that needed to be spent. I think if you were looking at what is best for the taxpayers of Wethersfield alone, it was an easy contract to vote on and I think we should be very careful moving on making such charges. I think it is beneath this body.

Councilor Hurley commented that he doesn't think it was charges he thinks it was just to see if it was appropriate for public sector unions to fund municipal campaigns that was all.

Deputy Mayor Barry commented that he thinks it can be raised in an appropriate form but thinks the context of a contract that's good for the town, if you are looking what is good for the taxpayers, that's not the appropriate way to raise it so that's my opinion and that is how I feel.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted. The motion passed 7-0-1. Councilor Martino abstained.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Bridges explained that these are the meeting dates based on the Charter or based upon the Rules of Procedures. The one question is the night before the election in November, if we want to continue that or go ahead and cancel that now or leave it on the list. Mr. Bridges asked Ms. Sassano if there were others. Ms. Sassano responded no that was the only one. Mayor Montinieri commented that we should formally move to approve the dates regardless of what we do for the November 2nd date so let's get a motion to approve on the schedule as submitted and then we can discuss whether we include November 2nd.

Councilor Martino moved to **"APPROVE THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING DATES FOR 2015"**, seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

Mayor Montinieri asked Council if they wanted to modify the schedule now rather than wait until fall.

Councilors Kotkin and Hemmann commented they cancel it prior to every election so they recommend eliminating the November 2nd meeting now.

Councilor Hemmann commented it makes perfect sense to do it now while we are putting the dates out there for publishing, changing the Rules and Procedure.

Mayor Montinieri suggested that we should remove the November 2nd date .

Councilor Rell asked if there is an emergency or something that arises between October 19 and

November 2nd, we can obviously call a special meeting. Mayor Montinieri commented that if anything like that happens we can always call a special meeting within 24 hours.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Mr. Bridges announced that for those that follow the budget process, April 20th will be the public hearing for the budget in this room, so put that on your calendars.

BIDS

Councilor Martino moved **“TO APPROVE THE TECHNOLOGY PURCHASES FOR THE WETHERSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$175,919.40”**, seconded by Councilor Roberts.

Mr. Bridges explained the Building Committee has approved these purchases for various technology items for the high school project. Keith Rafaniello who is the IT Director for the Board of Education is here to answer questions regarding these. It shows the schools movement towards mobility, towards personability, towards student one-on-one with devices and much more interactive technologically than what we’ve been in the past.

Deputy Mayor Barry asked where the computers are going to be used and why it’s important to have those now.

Mr. Rafaniello responded that Phase I is coming to end soon and originally it was scheduled for December and we are hoping that it will be soon that Phase I is complete. Our new Media Center will be coming on-line as well as our Athletic Offices and our two musical rooms both Choral and Band. At the same time, as soon as Phase I comes on-line, Phase II construction begins and Phase II construction is going to displace three of our computer labs, two business computer labs in Room 220 and 222. Those rooms each have 30 desktop computers and then our general purpose computer lab that teachers can bring their classes to, that’s on the fourth floor Room 416. That whole side of the building will be under renovation. It’s going to solve our Phase II, losing those three labs and at the same time have the Phase I rooms up and running. We are asking for 120 PCs, 30 iMacs, and 120 iPads, which represents about \$175,000. The total allowance for technology in this project is approximately \$1.8 million. To date we have spent \$300,000 of that. If this is approved, we spend \$91,000 on all the switches for the high school and \$35,000 for some chrome books. So, to just break out where each of these are going. The 30 iMacs, 20 of those will go to the new Band/Choral lab. That’s something that we don’t currently have in the current high school so this will be a shared lab between band and choral where students can produce music electronically, record their productions and save those and share those. As most of you who are music enthusiasts know, there is a lot you can do electronically and digitally with music today. We’ll be gaining that lab and 20 of the machines will go into that lab. Ten of the iMacs will go into the new lab or media center as fixed research stations. Then we have the 120 PCs. Ten of those will go to the Athletic Offices, 20 to the Main Office and Guidance and then I mentioned those three labs that we were losing. Business Lab 1,

2, and general purpose lab 416. We are going to use a laptop cart for business lab 1 because that is currently going to be housed in the new library media center. There is actually a classroom area that is going to be an area where students can quietly learn with their classes, but during Phase II, we have to actually house the business program in that lab. It's not wired for desktops so we'll need a laptop cart to keep that program going. Business Lab II will temporarily be housed in the old world languages lab and then the general purpose lab, Room 416, will also become a mobile laptop cart in the Library that teachers can sign out as opposed to bringing their class, field trip style to Room 416. They will be able to bring the mobile laptops into their classrooms, so learning can take place, integration technology can take place right in the classroom and then much in the same way that we are using the mobile laptops, the 120 iPads will be four carts or 30 and teachers will be able to sign those out, take them to their class, and use them for research and also most of our learning resources are available on-line now. All of our best on-line resources are interactive. There's assessments built in and they are available on-line. The problem with the current high school, we don't have devices to connect our students to our on-line resources and this high school project is going to take care of that need. The beauty of it, in my opinion, is that it is State reimbursable so all of this technology that we are purchasing, the State pays for approximately half. I don't know the exact reimbursement formula, but if we were to purchase all of this technology through the operating budget, we wouldn't get a penny from the State, so that's an advantage, of course, for doing it this way.

Councilor Kotkin asked how long is the life expectancy of these devices? Mr. Rafaniello responded that we currently have approximately 11,000 computers in the district that are 11 years old. Of course, we would like to upgrade them, they won't last forever and they are already showing signs in some areas of breaking down and we're finding ourselves spending more time on those older computers than we do for some of the new ones. So, our iPads, the first iPads we purchased were four years ago and we love them. I know some people mention, well technology only lasts five years. We plan to keep those iPads for a lot longer than just five years because as I mentioned those iPads are four years old and they are working wonderfully for us. They work for the testing and connecting to typing training.com for our students and they work to connect our students to the internet and to all of our on-line learning resources. So, we are hoping that we are going to get as many years out of our technology as we do some of our furniture. I think some furniture breaks down before our technology but part of that is purchasing good equipment that is reliable, that we have a track record with that comes with a warranty and also working hard as a department to maintain it, clean it, and update it. So I know the Town Manager mentioned possible doing shorter bonds as opposed to longer ones. The interest rate would be higher on shorter bonds but it may make more sense. My goal as Director of Technology is we just don't want to short change the kids that are in the building right now and losing these three labs is going to be a hit for us so this technology will allow us and insure that they have access to the resources they need to be prepared as productive members in college and society.

Councilor Kotkin asked what his view was on how long the technology will last. Mr. Rafaniello commented that they want to do their best to make it last as long as possible. If we should somehow get even more than 11, 12, or 13 years out of it, then we'll be proud of that accomplishment but as you know it doesn't last forever. The nice thing about the new

technology though is that it does connect us to the internet so the days of needing to have machines that house a lot of software are over because everything is web based. These chrome books that aren't very expensive that don't have a lot of space on them, do everything we need right now because all of our email is web based and the learning resources we have is web based so we don't need as much power and we don't need to update as frequently now that all of our resources are assessable via the internet and also that the internet has improved so drastically. We can all remember days with the dial up modems and just how long it took things to download and now we are fine in the schools in terms of download speeds thanks to the CT Education network for providing the free internet for us and the wifi infrastructure that we have put in place in all of our buildings in the last three years. I can't promise you a certain amount of years, but I promise we will try to get as many years out of the technology as we can.

Councilor Hurley asked if we are still on track to keep within the overall budget. Mr. Rafaniello responded that he can give a quick overview of that. Mr. Rafaniello explained that we have short-throw projectors for all the classrooms. The new projection mounts right to the wall and the lamps are much better. You can have full sunlight in the room and still have an excellent display. There is a \$227,000 allowance for those projectors to get 70 units which would house all of our classrooms and a few other spaces, the Library Media Center. We haven't come to the Building Committee yet because we are trying to get the best price as possible and also the technology with projection keeps improving so we want to hopefully wait as long as we could and get the best possible projectors. The teacher computers are \$130,000, computers for students, \$784,000. The classroom amps and speakers in the ceiling is part of the base bid so we don't have to use the technology budget for that. We have some wireless access points we are adding. There is a \$50,000 allowance for that. I mentioned the music station; there is a \$50,000 allowance for that for the music lab. There is a world languages lab, 30 stations, there is a \$75,000 allowance for that. Due that we beat a lot of these prices, for example, the network hardware of the switches that we purchased, there was a \$275,000 allowance and we did it for \$91,000. The building TV monitors for when you come into the building and in the cafeteria, they cycle through digital signage and talks about the state football game Saturday, etc. and whatever you want to put up there for students, there's a \$15,000 allowance for these monitors that will be spread throughout the building. There is an audio control room in the auditorium. There's a \$50,000 allowance for that and there is an auditorium projector which is going to be different than a classroom projector of course. There is a \$10,000 allowance for that. There is a \$20,000 allowance for printers and copiers are part of the base bid. All total \$1,857,153.00. So we are well under budget. If this is approved we spent \$300,000 of that.

Councilor Hurley asked if the \$784,000 was for iPads. Mr. Rafaniello responded that we have actually been purchasing Chrome books and laptops. Kind of a mix where I think 10 or 15 years ago we used to have that debate, should we get macs, should we get PC and now we are at the point where we want our students to be flexible with all types of technology. So we are going to give them a mix of Chrome books, laptops and iPads.

Councilor Hurley asked on page 60 or 61, the quote from Apple, Inc. is good for November 22nd, I'm assuming we got an extension. Mr. Rafaniello responded that we'll get an extension, yes.

Apple is the one company that only lets schools purchase directly through them. We can't purchase through any other vendor.

Councilor Rell asked how many iPads we originally purchased four years ago. Mr. Rafaniello responded that we purchased 600 iPads so we have 180 at the middle school, 90 at the high school and the rest are at the elementary schools. Councilor Rell asked of those 600, do we still have all 600. Mr. Rafaniello responded we do. We've had some break and Apple runs a special where you return the broken one and they give you a new one that it's \$199.00 as opposed to the \$400 it would cost so you save almost half in returning the broken one. We've only had 7 breaks in four years and only 1 by a student. Councilor Rell asked of these 120 that are in the contract today are they only going to the high school or are they going to go throughout the school system. Mr. Rafaniello responded that this technology will only go to the high school. The middle school right now has more technology than the high school. We kind of did that by design knowing that this was coming when the new high school passed in April of 2012, we said great, that will be a chance for use to infuse the high school technology. The middle school currently has one device for every two students so which is excellent if you compare us to other middle schools in the state. We are doing very well.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Councilor Martino moved **"TO APPROVE THE CHANGE ORDER FOR TEMPORARY DOORS FOR G DONOVAN ASSOCIATES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$43,548.18 FOR THE WETHERSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL RENOVATION PROJECT"**, seconded by Councilor Roberts.

Mr. Bridges explained that due to the phasing switch when we changed out the phasing at the first part of the project to account for the remediation and the new additions, we have to add temporary doors so there is a change order for \$43,548.18 for temporary doors and Mike Turner is here to elaborate on that.

Mr. Turner explained that we included in the base bid an estimate of 8 temporary doors to be included as a bid allowance so we were able to set a unit price and the unit price is about \$1,000 that is to furnish, install the door, the hardware, the hinges, the locks, closers and remove it after its use is done. So right now we have significantly more of these as the Manager pointed out because of the change in phasing and again these doors are used to basically segregate the school population from the construction under operation. There are numerous corridors in the hallways that we have to provide access points just to maintain an emergency egress if we need it, but all of these are identified as a unit price prior to and during the bidding process. These doors are reusable as well during the later phases of construction; we'll reuse them as we need them as they take them out.

Councilor Roberts asked what happens after the project is over. Mr. Turner responded if anything is salvageable, Fred Bushey and Sally may be able to use them. They'll be able to just

hand pick them. We'll own them at that point. Councilor Roberts asked to sell them on Ebay maybe? Mr. Turner commented maybe sell them to Rocky Hill for their school.

Councilor Rell asked about the doors at Emerson. Maybe we can talk about it after, but there were temporary doors at Emerson. They weren't fitting correctly. Mr. Turner responded that he thinks that was part of the CIP Project and Fred got some security grant money to install some new entry doors at all the elementary schools. I don't know the specifics of the issue that you are talking about. Councilor Rell commented that we can talk about that.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

MINUTES

Councilor Martino moved **"TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 17, 2014 AS AMENDED"**, seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

Mayor Montinieri added some changes which will be included in the meeting minutes.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted. The motion passed 7-0-1. Councilor Roberts abstained.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gus Colantonio, 16 Morrison Ave. commented on the new house construction and stated that there were catch basins on the plans that were never there and asked why did that happen and asked if they were supposed to build it and never did and would be curious to know. He commented on the lack of a stop sign on Morrison Ave. He asked about the washout between the curbing and sidewalk just east of Tifton and asked whose responsibility it is to fix it. He stated that there is a pot hole at the end of Morrison Ave. just in the vicinity of Silas Deane and the longer we wait to fix it, the bigger it is going to get. He asked who is going to be liable to fix that, contractor or the town? He stated that he is still waiting for a response from the Town Manager regarding the intersection site distance from Beverly and Wolcott Hill Rd.

Robert Young, 29 Coppermill Rd. commented that he thinks a waiver for Morrison Ave. is way over due and a stop sign that would slow traffic up would be ideal and urges the council to do something about getting a stop sign over there via a waiver or whatever it takes to resolve this issue. He commented that we give the Wethersfield Historical Society a lot of opportunity and money. We give them a building for \$100 a year that they end up using and renting and they are taking us over the coals and asked why we, the citizens, should contribute to this. He stated that nobody resolves any of the conflicts of interest and that it is a big circular action going on at the State and Municipal level.

At 8:00 p.m., Councilor Kotkin moved **"TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR PURPOSES OF REVIEW"**, seconded by Councilor Martino.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

At 8:30 p.m. Deputy Mayor Barry moved **“TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION”**, seconded by Councilor Rell.

Vote: All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Councilor Kotkin moved **“TO INCREASE THE TOWN CLERK’S SALARY TO \$71,000”**, seconded by Councilor Roberts.

Vote: All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:31 p.m., Councilor Kotkin moved **"TO ADJOURN THE MEETING"**, seconded by Councilor Hemmann. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Dolores G. Sassano
Town Clerk

Approved by Vote of Council
December 15, 2014